

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-47 are pending; Claims 1 and 2 are presently active; and Claims 3-47 were previously withdrawn from consideration.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Koz (U.S. Pat. No. 5,990,955). For the reasons discussed below, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1, from which Claim 2 depends, recites a coating means for dividing an input moving image signal into a plurality of frame image signals, dividing each of the frame image signals into one or more area image signals, and compression coding the area image signal into an area image code string, and adding a frame header information indicating a coding mode of the frame to the area image code string. Claims 1 and 2 relate to MPEG-4, and the area image signal and coding strings to which the frame header information is added may be seen in Figs. 3A-3D.

The outstanding Office Action cites to column 4, lines 34-49 of Koz to support that Koz discloses dividing an input image signal into a plurality of frame image signals, and dividing each of the frame image signals into one or more area image signals.

However, Koz relates to MPEG-2. More specifically, the macro-blocks relied upon in the outstanding Office Action are described in Koz as being a block array representing the luminance four blocks 3/10 of pixel luminance and two blocks 3/12 representing interpolated pixel chrominance. These macro-blocks of Koz do not correspond to an area image signal.

Accordingly, as Koz fails to disclose or suggest the limitations of Claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 1 patentably distinguishes over Koz. Likewise, dependent

Claim 2 is considered to patentably distinguish over Koz for the reasons above-noted with regard to Claim 1. It is therefore respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

Consequently, in view of the foregoing discussion, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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